

CLAIM

1. A microorganism-derived enzyme having an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in disaccharide unit.

2. The enzyme according to claim 1, wherein said disaccharide glycoside is β -primeveroside and/or an analogous disaccharide glycoside.

3. A polypeptide which comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 shown in the Sequence Listing, wherein one or more amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence are modified by at least one of deletion, addition, insertion and substitution, and also having an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in disaccharide unit.

4. A polypeptide which comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 shown in the Sequence Listing.

5. A polynucleotide which encodes a microorganism-derived polypeptide having an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in disaccharide unit.

6. A polynucleotide which comprises a polynucleotide being selected from the following

polynucleotides (a) to (g) and encoding a polypeptide having an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in disaccharide unit;

(a) a polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 shown in the Sequence Listing,

(b) a polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 shown in the Sequence Listing, wherein one or more amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence are modified by at least one of deletion, addition, insertion and substitution,

(c) a polynucleotide which has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7 shown in the Sequence Listing,

(d) a polynucleotide which has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7 shown in the Sequence Listing, wherein one or more bases of the nucleotide sequence are modified by at least one of deletion, addition, insertion and substitution,

(e) a gene which hybridizes with any one of the aforementioned polynucleotides (a) to (d) under a stringent condition,

(f) a polynucleotide which has homology with any one of the aforementioned polynucleotides (a) to (d), and

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(g) a polynucleotide which is degenerate with respect to any one of the aforementioned polynucleotides (a) to (f).

7. A polynucleotide which comprises a polynucleotide coding for a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 shown in the Sequence Listing.

8. A recombinant vector which contains the polynucleotide of any one of claims 5 to 7.

9. A transformant transformed with the recombinant vector of claim 8.

10. A method for producing an enzyme having an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in disaccharide unit, which comprises culturing the transformant of claim 9 to effect production of the enzyme having an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in disaccharide unit, and subsequently collecting said enzyme from the resulting culture mixture.

11. A method for producing an enzyme having an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in disaccharide unit, which comprises culturing a microorganism in a nutrient medium to effect production of the enzyme having an activity to act upon a disaccharide

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glycoside to release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in disaccharide unit, and subsequently collecting said enzyme from the resulting culture mixture.

12. The production method according to claim 11, wherein the microorganism is selected from the genus *Aspergillus*, the genus *Penicillium*, the genus *Rhizopus*, the genus *Rhizomucor*, the genus *Talaromyces*, the genus *Mortierella*, the genus *Cryptococcus*, the genus *Microbacterium*, the genus *Corynebacterium* and the genus *Actinoplanes*.

13. The method for producing an enzyme having an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in disaccharide unit according to claim 10, 11 or 12, wherein the nutrient medium contains a substance which induces production of an enzyme having an action to release saccharides from a disaccharide glycoside in disaccharide unit.

14. The method for producing a novel enzyme composition according to claim 13, wherein the inducer is a saccharide.

15. A method for modifying composition of a material containing a disaccharide glycoside, which comprises allowing an enzyme having an action to release

saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in disaccharide unit to react with said material.

16. The modifying method according to claim 15, wherein said disaccharide glycoside is an aromatic component precursor or a pigment component precursor.

17. The modifying method according to claim 15, wherein said disaccharide glycoside is β -primeveroside and/or an analogous disaccharide glycoside.

18. A method for modifying composition of a material containing a modified monoglucoside, which comprises allowing an enzyme having an action to release a modified monosaccharide unit from said modified monoglucoside to react with said material.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said modified monoglucoside is at least one member selected from the group consisting of acetylglucoside, malonylglucoside, methylglucoside, phosphoglucoside, and amidoglucoside.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said modified monoglucoside is acetylglucoside of isoflavone, malonylglucoside of isoflavone, and both thereof.

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